

Service Newsletter June 2023

June is the first month of Makuru, which is represented by the colour dark blue as it symbolises rain and cold weather. It especially sees the coldest and wettest time of the year in the South West of the state. Traditionally, this was a good time of the year to move back inland from the coast as the winds turned to the west and south bringing the cold weather, rains and occasionally snow on the peaks of the Stirling and Porongurup Ranges. As the waterways and catchments started to fill, people were able to move about their country with ease and their food sources changed from the sea, estuarine and lake foods to those of the land, in particular the grazing animals such as the kangaroo.

Parenting Connection WA

Funded by the Department of Communities, Parenting Connection WA gives parents and caregivers of children aged 0 – 18 years across Western Australia the support they need to improve the wellbeing and development of their children. There are great resources available on their website and they also deliver workshops regularly. Click on the link to see more about what they offer: <https://parentingconnectionwa.com.au/>

Policies up for Review

As part of our legal requirements, the following policies are coming up for review. Please have a read and if there is anything that you believe needs to be included or changed, please let us know via info@naturealliancefdc.com.au

- Policy 1.1: Nutrition
- Policy 2: Interaction with Children
- Policy 16: Physical Activity
- Policy 24: Assessment & Reassessment of FDC Premises
- Policy 35: Governance

Changes to CCS Gap Payment Fees

As you are probably aware by now, from 1st July 2023, families using childcare must pay their CCS gap fee via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The changes being made to the method of CCS gap fee payments will not affect the amount of childcare subsidy families receive. The Australian Government is making these changes to ensure that CCS is being paid for eligible sessions of care. The changes are also designed to ensure transparency for auditing purposes and to prevent fraudulent CCS claims. The Department of Education, Skills & Employment have made it clear that CCS was never supposed to be paid out unless full fee (or the parent gap portion) was paid first – a lot like when you go to your GP and you are expected to pay the practice in full and then your Medicare rebate gets processed afterwards.

As a result of that crucial bit of information and other details being provided to us over the last few weeks, we have decided that the service will take over the collection of the parent gap fees from our Educators, with an estimated start date of 7th August 2023. Before this date you will receive documentation to complete to give us authority to take your payments via direct debit or credit card through redPAY which is the payment method used through the Centralised Payment System. It is crucial you complete this as soon as you receive it so your parent gap payment can be paid that first week the new process commences.

Unfortunately due to the way the payment system is set up, there will be a small transaction fee for each payment you make, however we estimate that this will only put families out of pocket \$36.40 over a whole year. This *should* be absolved with the changes to the CCS which should give you more CCS entitlements and a small gap fee to pay. Further information will be forwarded to you at each step of the way, however if you do have any queries so far, please speak to your Educator or contact us in the office.

Contact Us

If you have any queries or feedback regarding the Service or would like to chat about the content of this newsletter or about your Educator in general, please feel free to contact us on the numbers or email address listed at the bottom of the first page of this newsletter or find us on our [Facebook](#) page.

WHERE CHILDREN CAN BE CHILDREN

